



– For Immediate Release –

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

IIMPACT detectives investigate West Phoenix drop house

Suspected human smuggler arrested, seven undocumented immigrants rescued

On September 29, 2008, IIMPACT Detectives developed information concerning a possible drop house where at least one person was told he would be killed if his family didn't come up with \$3,500 to secure his release.

On September 30, Phoenix Police Swat Team members made entry into a residence located at 7767 West Weldon. They found Fernando Cervantes-Contreras, a suspected human smuggler, hiding in a shed. Seven undocumented aliens, including the person receiving the death threats, were rescued from the home. IIMPACT detectives found two guns and a baseball bat. The victim stated he had been held by two male suspects and a female suspect. The female struck him several times with a baseball bat. One of the males struck him in the face with his fist and repeatedly held a gun to his head threatening to kill him.

IIMPACT Detectives are looking for the two other suspects. All seven UDA's were turned over to the custody of ICE.

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal police agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating in Arizona.

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